



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

February 21, 2019

In reply refer to:
FOIA 2019-195

Ms. Chelsea Dickens
MuckRock News
Department MR 67559
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144

Dear Ms. Dickens:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for communications from the parties “regarding the sale of *Sesame Street* and all related franchise materials from the Public Broadcasting System to Home Box Office.” Your request was received by this office on January 24, 2019.

The FOIA is designed to provide access to records in the custody of an agency not routinely made available to the public. As you may know, in 2015, Home Box Office (HBO) entered into an agreement with Sesame Workshop to acquire the rights to air *Sesame Street* programming. Please note that the Commission does not license cable television networks such as HBO or television production companies such as Sesame Workshop. As such, the Commission did not review or approve the transaction between HBO and Sesame Workshop. Accordingly, the Commission has no records responsive to your request.

The Commission’s FOIA Control Office has categorized you as an “All Others” requester for the purpose of assessing FOIA fees. Accordingly, you are required to pay for search time in excess of two hours and for reproducing records in excess of 100 pages.¹ Your request involved no search time or duplication of records. Accordingly, there are no fees associated with your request.

If you consider this to be a denial of your FOIA request, you may seek review by filing an application for review with the Office of General Counsel. An application for review must be *received* by the Commission within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter.² You may file an application for review by mailing the application to Federal Communications Commission,

¹ See 47 C.F.R. §0.470(a)(3).

² 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.461(j), 1.115; 47 C.F.R. § 1.7 (documents are considered filed with the Commission upon their receipt at the location designated by the Commission).

Office of General Counsel, 445 12th St SW, Washington, DC 20554, or you may file your application for review electronically by e-mailing it to FOIA-Appeal@fcc.gov. Please caption the envelope (or subject line, if via e-mail) and the application itself as "Review of Freedom of Information Action."

If you would like to discuss this response before filing an application for review to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact the Commission's FOIA Public Liaison for assistance at:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Managing Director
Performance Evaluation and Records Management
Attn: FOIA Public Liaison
445 12th St SW, Washington, DC 20554
FOIA-Public-Liaison@fcc.gov

Finally, if you are not able to resolve your FOIA dispute through the Commission's FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
202-741-5770
877-684-6448
ogis@nara.gov
ogis.archives.gov

Sincerely,


Michael S. Perko
Chief, Office of Communications
and Industry Information
Media Bureau